

HIGH POINT

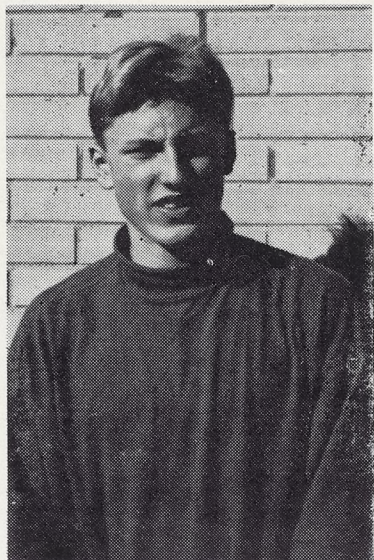
Vol. 13, No. 2

BISHOP FORD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Christmas, 1988

Austrian Student Completes Semester At Ford

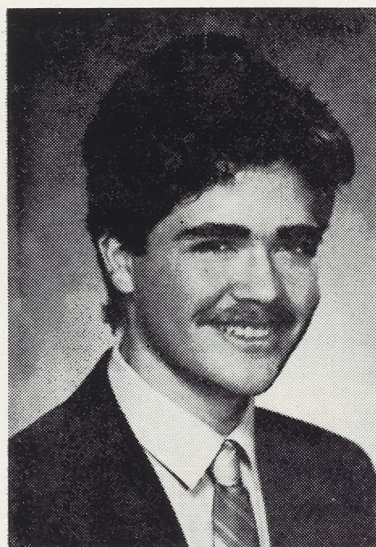
by DayAnn Molina and
Sonia Perez



Gernot Brienl

This holiday season, let us remember those less fortunate than ourselves.

In Memoriam



Jesus Ferreiro

It is with deepest sorrow that the Editors and Staff of HIGHPOINT note the passing last summer of Jesus Ferreiro, a graduate of the Class of 1987 of Bishop Ford High School. Jesus spent some of his most precious hours working and playing here at Ford, and it is to his memory that we, his friends and schoolmates, dedicate this issue of HIGHPOINT.

When you first approach Arne-Gernot Breinl (one of Bishop Ford's new juniors), you're immediately welcomed by his inviting smile and sincere salutation.

Gernot (as he is called by friends) is spending six months at Bishop Ford as an exchange student from Vienna, Austria, thanks to the help and sponsorship of the Ronald S. Lauder Exchange Program. Even though this is his first time in a country as an exchange student, Gernot is not totally inexperienced at visiting other countries for extended periods of time. He has travelled extensively with his friends during school vacations to places such as France, Spain, England, Morocco, Germany, and Yugoslavia (to name a few).

When first asked about what his friends in Austria told him the U.S. would be like, he responded with these words:

"Sex and Crime." They, according to Gernot, thought that New York would be a crime-ridden, morally corrupt city, where it would be too dangerous for one even to step outside. They also said that the girls here would probably be "real dogs."

Has that impression changed, now that Gernot has been in New York for some time? "I find that the people here are very open and friendly. The girls are very, very beautiful." Gernot also says that he doesn't find any set culture among American people. Everyone is different—there is no set standard or practice that sets people apart as "Americans."

The only negative traits Gernot notices in American society are that (1) Americans seem to be very conservative about things like drinking and going out a lot, and (2) most people seem to watch too much television—they aren't even selective about the programs they watch each evening. Gernot does like the sense of pride that Americans seem to have in their country. He loves to see the tree-lined neighborhoods in Brooklyn with their American flags waving outside windows and on lawns.

So, how does Gernot like Bishop Ford? How would he compare it with his school in Austria?

Gernot makes it a point to say that he loves Bishop Ford. He likes the students here, as well as the classes he has, especially history, which is his favorite subject. Though

he feels that most people at Ford have been very helpful and supportive of him, he does have some problems with the way he is viewed by teachers here. The major difficulty he faces is that at times teachers don't realize just how intelligent Gernot is and how competitive the selection process is for someone to be accepted as an exchange student. Often, they unintentionally view Gernot's stay here as some sort of long-term vacation.

As far as a comparison between Ford and the "Vienna school," Gernot says that he really couldn't make a comparison. His school in Vienna is much smaller, and the school system in Austria is drastically different. Even the hours of study aren't the same. Usually, Gernot starts school at 7:30 a.m., and has a straight string of classes until 1:00 p.m. After school, he and his friends go out to lunch. The school in Vienna doesn't have a cafeteria, and students do not get "freest."

Though Gernot is not from the United States, he is still a normal teenager by all counts. He enjoys going out with his friends, rather than staying with his family at home, and he loves to listen to new wave and classic rock. Some of his favorite groups are R.E.M., Depeche Mode, The Smiths, and Camouflage. His all-time favorite group is The Who.

Gernot enjoys shopping and hanging out in New York City's Greenwich Village. So far, he has visited the Empire State Building, has gone bowling with friends, and has frequented many of New York's nightclubs. He also is a member of Ford's soccer team.

What are some of the things Gernot wishes to accomplish before he leaves?

He does want to see the Statue of Liberty, the famous Ziegfeld Theatre, the Hard Rock Cafe, and the Museum of Modern Art. He's also very interested in going to see The Rocky Horror Picture Show at the 8th Street Playhouse sometime in the near future.

"I am not really here so much to study or to party in New York. I want to make friends in America, friends I can write to and still have a good relationship with when I go back home to Vienna."

And with his friendly way of welcoming people and the intelligent conversations he has, there isn't too much doubt that this "new kid" will have no trouble accomplishing his goal.

Father Jan: Friend And Scholar

by John Hwang

As a member of the Religion department, Father Jan has been at Bishop Ford for eight years. One of the most respected and loved members of the faculty, he says, "I like my work at Bishop Ford very much and the give-and-take of working with young people. I try to teach them what I've learned, but I also learn a lot from my students. And the love and friendship which they have shown me means a lot to me." He is also the chaplain of P.I.C. (Personal Involvement With Christ). P.I.C. is "essentially a youth movement in which members try to become more personally involved with Christ and the Catholic Church," Father Jan said. Even though "Bishop Ford has no specific sponsorship of the P.I.C. program, it allows us to use the chapel and other facilities." When asked about one of the more basic problems of New York City, homelessness, he answered, "One way of helping is to become aware of homelessness and open our eyes to the so-called invisible poor,

because they do exist, even though we personally don't come into contact with them. There is a tendency not to think about problems we don't experience. But Christianity should lead us to care about everybody, whether or not they are actually in our circle of friends and experience. Christians want to improve this world and not only look to the next world." Father Jan agrees with all of the traditional views of the Church on issues like abortion, contraceptives, women priests, etc. In his free time, he likes to work on his computers. He reads a lot, occasionally goes to the YMCA to work out, and loves to travel and study other cultures. As the last question, HIGHPOINT asked Father if he thought Ford's religion program was adequate. He answered: "I concur with the religion department, which has stated a number of times in its meetings that we wish religion had a somewhat more prominent place at Bishop Ford. We already have an excellent religion program and activities, but there is always room for improvement."



Father Januarius Izzo, O.F.M.

Seniors And Freshman Work Together

by Ula Zucker

The Peer Group program started at the beginning of the 1987 school year, and it is now in its second year. The program's schedule is composed of eight spring sessions and eight fall sessions.

The Peer Group program consists of forty-five peer group leaders and the whole freshman class. Each group in the program consists of one senior peer group leader, or a team of two senior peer group co-leaders, and six to ten freshmen.

The seniors in the program are selected by counselors on the basis of willingness to help and leadership skills. A peer group leader is a sensitive listener who uses communication skills to encourage self-exploration and decision-making. Peer Group leaders share similar concerns and may have the same point of view as that of the younger students.

The program exists to avert

poor school performance and adjustment problems, which are all too common in the first year of high school.

The goals of the peer group program are, first of all, to promote personal growth and development through a helping relationship, to build self-esteem in the ninth graders through self-awareness, to enable members to make positive changes in themselves, and, last of all, to develop the helping skills of the seniors involved in the program by giving them the opportunity to give to others in need.

Basically, what freshmen and seniors discuss in the groups are their feelings and experiences; they in some way relate to understand each other's problems and points of view.

The program is directed by Ms. Raffeniello and Brother Damian, and is supervised weekly by counselors Ms. Casazzone and Sister Anne, in conjunction with Christian Service.

Inquiring Reporter

by Ula Zucker

What is your opinion on abortion?

"I personally think it is morally wrong. The mother has no right to kill her child. Under very strict conditions, I believe there are times when abortion should be permitted, such as when a female has been raped or her life has been endangered by the pregnancy; possibly she should be permitted to have an abortion."

—Richelet Jean, 105

"I'm against abortion, because you are killing a human being which is part of you. I think there should be a law against killing babies."

—Lynn Wezer, 111

"I don't think it's wrong, because if a woman was raped, she shouldn't have to keep the baby. She did not choose to

have it. Yet it's wrong when a woman is careless and gets pregnant and uses abortion as a way out."

—Louis Bocchino, 201

"I am undecided on this issue. In certain cases, like rape, it should be tolerated; otherwise, if someone has enough responsibility to go and sleep around without a thought of protection, then she has enough responsibility to take care of a baby."

—Sandra Paul, 207

"I'm on both sides when it comes to abortion. Morally it's wrong, because people are killing something innocent, an unborn child who never asked to be born. It should only be allowed when it comes to rape or medical problems."

—Judith Arnoux, 301

"As of this date, I am for

abortion. I'd rather a child be unborn than unwanted, and be abused mentally and physically."

—Sukeena Stephens, 309

"Abortion is wrong because life begins in a mother's womb. During intercourse you should take precautions against getting pregnant, and if a female becomes pregnant, it's her responsibility, and she must live up to it."

—Gregory Paul, 409

"It should be legal; the choice is to be made by the woman herself. No one, especially the law, has the right to 'force' a woman to give birth to a baby that is unwanted. Emphasis should be on prevention of unwanted and unplanned births, not termination of births."

—Beth McGovern, 408

Some More Equal Than Others?

by Shirley Collado

Are discipline, demerits, and dress code regulations the problem at Ford, or are **favoritism** and concentrating on the wrong things? This question is a very controversial one here at Ford.

Many students feel that some students are violating rules, sometimes even on a routine basis, and are not getting disciplined because of who they know or what position they hold at school. Why should a rule be followed if special people are sliding by breaking it?

Discipline should not be based on how well you know your dean or if you are a

star athlete. This is something that has been overlooked by everyone with authority, but not by the most important members of Ford, we students! This problem does exist and will continue until we, the students, are heard.

We may be looked upon as young, rebellious and selfish, but is it right for one to accuse when one is only fair to **some** students, rather than to all of them? We should be heard. For once we should be spoken to, not down to.

Ford should be a rewarding community, not an army with ranks and treatment according to status.

What Now, Mr. Bush?

by Christopher Mari

Now it is history. The 1988 election is over. Michael Dukakis was beaten by George Bush by a comfortable margin of 54% to 46% in the popular vote. Now a question unanswered in the campaign remains: Who is George Bush?

If anyone said "the president-elect," you're right, but the polls told us that four weeks before Election Day. So, who exactly is this man Bush? Where does he stand on the issues? Here are some "issues": He's for flag-waving, for capital punishment and against abortion. Okay, now what about issues like the trade deficit? How will our new President handle this? He made really no mention of it during the campaign, so it just got lost in ticker-tape. It may have disappeared because it was bad campaign strategy. All that is known about the deficit is that it is more than every President's combined since Washington to Carter. We need something done about it. But don't worry, we won't be taxed. We'll be overrun by the Japanese economically, instead. So Mr. Bush, where will the money come from?

What about the drug issue? Drug abuse is on the rise and "Just Say No" only goes so far. The government needs to do something about it. It doesn't just go away if both candidates don't mention it. Our government in the last year only stopped a very small fraction of all the drugs coming into this country. But we'll "try, try again" to make it all better and if not, we'll forget it come 1992.

During this election, we saw a lot of nothing. Nobody really wanted to get out and vote on Election Day because no one was really worthy of the Presidency. We saw a lot of "dirty politics," such as Bush's commercials on the very-dragged-out Willie Horton and the prison furlough issue. We were beaten to death about Massachusetts harbor. We saw name-calling tactics, such as the Vice-President being a "wimp" and the one-liner about Joe Izuzu in the debates. Not what you expect from two men who want to be the leader of the free world.

There were some issues that were significant. Abortion, for one, was important. But it will take a long time to change people's feelings on it, much longer than four years. Capital punishment is a law decided on state level, in a state legislature, by a state governor. So why even bother touching it?

One hopes there will be no decline in America, socially or economically. But the winds are on the rise for one, and we must prepare for it. Our new President must face the issues and deal straight with the American people, and only then will it work.

Letters To The Editor

My name is John Comis, and I am a graduate of Bishop Ford (1986). I wish to inform all interested students of an organization they are eligible to join. That organization is the Bay Ridge Volunteer Ambulance (BRAVO) Youth Squad. The youth squad exists to allow people under the age of eighteen to become familiar with the BRAVO organization, while learning the techniques of pre-hospital ambulance care. The youth squad is an elite group of young people who consistently win local and state-wide first aid competitions. Aside from first aid, the youth squad is an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in a health related profession, be it medicine, para-medicine, nursing, or any field where critical decision-making will affect success. If you feel you are the type of person who would like to be part of such an organization, or if you have any questions, feel free to give me a call at (718) 336-3595.

John Comis, Jr.

Skinheads Victims Of Stereotyping

by Danielle Ramos

Recent skinhead attacks, such as when a group of skinheads beat up a man and attempted to throw his baby down a flight of stairs, have caused concern and unjust stereotyping.

The main cause of unfair stereotyping is close-mindedness. Some people judge others solely on their appearance before they ever get to know them. When they see a skinhead or ripped jeans or spikes or something that doesn't fit within their own standards of acceptability, they immediately categorize that person as a lowlife or a degenerate.

If people would just have an open mind, they would realize that there is good and bad in all groups of people, whether they be skinheads and rockers or preppies and cugini. Because that old saying still holds true: "You can't judge a book by its cover."

Grief And Rage

by Joseph Cafaro

I never thought I would use a headline from the New York Post as the title for my essay, but no two words better describe my feelings, as well as those of many other citizens, about a horrible incident that occurred on Tuesday, October 19. Two New York City police officers were shot and killed in different drug-related cases. Officers Christopher Hoban and Michael Buczek were gunned down in their fight against drugs.

When I first heard about the incident, I was shocked and I prayed for their survival, but it was not to be. I was greatly saddened by the loss of these two fine young men, and I can just imagine what kind of pain the families of these police officers were in.

While I was very saddened by what had occurred, a great sense of anger also came over me. Why did these two men have to die and not the bastards who killed them? These men make money by destroying the lives of others through the sale of drugs. Not one of them showed any remorse, and one even bragged about killing a cop before he was eventually captured. I hope these men receive the death penalty for what they have done; anything else would be an injustice.

This was the first time since 1943 that two police officers were killed on the same day in different incidents. If nothing else, this has revealed how big a problem drugs have become in New York and throughout the country. It's a shame that an incident like this had to occur to renew the anti-drug fight in the U.S. Politicians are now calling for the death penalty for drug kingpins, and a tough anti-drug bill has just passed through the Congress; hopefully these measures will help turn the tide in this drug war.

On Saturday, October 22 there was a joint funeral for these two fallen heroes. Over fifteen thousand police officers from all over the Northeast came to pay their last respects to their fallen brothers. It was a very emotional and grief-filled day for everyone involved, especially for the family and close friends of Christopher Hoban and Michael Buczek, as they knew they would never see them again, never hug them again, never share a simple laugh together again.

These two brave young men had more than done their part in the fight against drugs. I pay tribute to them, as well as to all police officers who get so little respect but do so much for the people they protect and serve. May you rest in peace, Officer Hoban, Officer Buczek, may you rest in peace.

Should Only Grades Count?

by Shirley Collado

Without a doubt a lot of people are given credit for their academic ability, but are the **RIGHT** people being chosen for the **RIGHT** reasons? Sure, getting a very high average is something worth getting applauded for, but what other factors are taken into consideration? We have a lot of bright students at Ford who maintain a solid, decent average throughout the school year, along with making so many sacrifices.

Many students work. Many faculty members get the impression that all the students who work just work for clothes or "hang-out" money. In many cases that is not so. Actually, a good percentage of these students work to help their parents out (single parents in some cases) with tuition and other bills.

Other students are involved in a great deal of Ford's extra-curricular activities and sports. These students give a great deal of their time on weekdays, evenings and sometimes even weekends! We have a good amount of Ford's student body in sports, such as soccer, basketball, track and many others that involve a great deal of sacrifice and time.

Overall, students who make such contributions at Ford, as well as in their daily lives outside of Ford, and still maintain a good average in keeping with their abilities, should get the greatest amount of credit for doing their **BEST** academically, athletically, socially, and spiritually. That is more valuable than just going straight home every day and hitting the books with no other involvement whatsoever and thereby getting a high average.

Grades and averages are just numbers. It is what the student puts into his or her work that makes the final achievement so valuable.

HIGHPOINT

Bishop Ford Central Catholic High School

500 19 Street

Brooklyn, New York 11215

Dayann Molina	Co-Editor-in-Chief
Kevin Egan	Co-Editor-in-Chief
John Hwang	Assistant Editor
Christopher Mari	Assistant Editor
Shirley Collado	Editorial Editor
Dan Perrone	Sports Editor
Margo Barrett	Sports Editor
Gerald Garcia	Art Editor
Cynthia Arbulu	Layout Editor

Staff: Sonia Perez, Ula Zucker, Danielle Ramos, Joseph Cafaro, James Coppola, Robert Lombardi, Michael Wysokowski, Myriam Exume, Carleen Hodge, Heather Hodges, Julie Sanon.

Principal: Brother Luke Nawrocki, O.S.F.

Advisor: George A. McKay



Ford Students Preside At Murder Trail

by Kevin Egan

In a humid, dreary room, a man's future is decided. He is accused of the most serious of crimes, cold blooded murder. His trial is finished and it is now up to a jury of his peers to decide his guilt or innocence. Will the jury decide this most important question fairly, or will they decide through emotion and prejudice? This question was examined by Bishop Ford's Chalk Circle Players' presentation of Reginald Rose's **Twelve Angry Jurors**.

The story in itself may seem simplistic, but its themes and messages are universally powerful. The play deals with the murder of an elderly gentleman, and with his son, who is being tried for the murder. The story is told through a series of verbal reenactments by the twelve members of the jury assigned to this seemingly cut-and-dry case. The play opens with eleven of the jurors truly believing that the boy is guilty. It is through the logical reasoning of Juror No. 8 that most of the jurors' theories of guilt are proven wrong. This reasoning is interrupted by the prejudice of a few of the jurors.

Mr. Mingrone, the play's director, chose this play for many reasons. The play is an examination of the American judicial system in a time of media grandstanding, self-righteous evangelists, and false publicity cases. Although this is a strong reason to choose a play, another major reason for the play is to recruit new members for the drama club. Mr. Mingrone has successfully achieved this challenging task. The cast in this play, with the exception of four seniors, are basically underclassmen.

The cast (in numerical order) is as follows:

Foreman (Elena Maria Gandelli) Juror No. 2 (John Picirillo) Juror No. 3 (Sonia Perez) Juror No. 4 (Ann-Marie Rizzi) Juror No. 5 (Danielle Ramos) Juror No. 6 (Kevin Egan) Juror No. 7 (Susan Cuozzo) Juror No. 8 (Katherine Smith) Juror No. 9 (Glen Fitzgerald) Juror No. 10 (Nicole Goodman) Juror No. 11 (James Gelin) Juror No. 12 (Maria Manclus) Guard (Richard Rucker).

The play was a thought-provoking and emotionally packed event. The performance dates were Friday, December 9 and Saturday, December 10.



The Chalk Circle Players

Tracy Chapman's Urban Reality

by Shirley Collado

Many of you are already familiar with Tracy Chapman because of her hit song, **Fast Car**. Tracy is a singer of folk music, which makes her style very simple. In her hit album entitled simply, **Tracy Chapman**, there are many songs that are not played on the radio and are surely worthwhile listening to.

The songs on her album are as follows:

Talkin' 'Bout A Revolution
Fast Car
Across the Lines
Behind the Wall
Baby Can I Hold You
Mountains O' Things
She's Got Her Ticket
Why?
For My Lover
If Not Now . . .
For You

All the vocals and most of the rhythm guitar, electric guitar, or acoustic guitar, are done by Tracy Chapman herself. She is a very talented singer, songwriter, and musician. Her voice can hold its own, as it does in the song **Behind the Wall**, in which no instruments are used.

Tracy is a fresh and new singer, and she has been received very well by the public. Her music is very simple and her lyrics are intense. Her talent for realism and simplicity is moving.

This album is superb, loaded with messages and super originality. A lot is expected to follow this album, and Tracy Chapman is without a doubt capable of great things. Find out for yourself!

The King Of Horror

by DayAnn Molina

Stephen King has stunned his readers with his most recent literary creation, **The Gunslinger**.

The book, the first in a nine-volume series called "The Dark Tower," is very different from the dozens of other great books King has written, because it is more of a science-fiction fantasy than a horror story. It is a modern-day epic focusing on Roland (the gunslinger) and his "evil" enemy, The Man In Black (the magician).

Through his vivid descriptions and his mastery of col-

loquial language, King makes the action and dialogue in the book so real that the reader can practically see and hear it. The flashback effect is handled so well that the reader becomes enthralled with the plot, making it virtually impossible to put the book down.

The second "Dark Tower" book is expected to begin circulation sometime in March, 1989. One thing is certain: this self-proclaimed Stephen King fan will be the first one at the bookstore when the next volume reaches the shelves.

Moshing It Up With Anthrax

by Danielle Ramos

What do you get when you put together five very talented New York rockers, dynamite lyrics, and nine "kicking" songs of pure metal? Well, of course, you get **Anthrax** and their latest album, "State of Euphoria."

With lead vocalist Joey Belladonna, drummer Charlie Benante, bassist Frank Bello, and guitarists Danny Spitz and Scott Ian, **Anthrax** has proved to be one of the greatest true heavy metal bands to hit the metal scene in a

long time. The entire album is pure metal, pure headbanging rock and roll, a purely wicked experience (in other words, **Anthrax** moshing it up at their best). Each song is unique and has a message of its own. Some of the best cuts include "Be All, End All," "Now It's Dark," "Make Me Laugh," and "Schism."

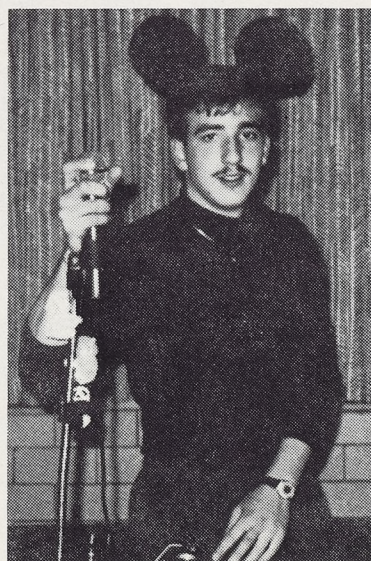
Anthrax's "State of Euphoria" is one album every rocker must have in his or her collection. So, if you haven't already, be sure to drop by your local record store and pick it up.

Rock History In The Making

by Jason Coppola

U2's Rattle and Hum is a fine concert movie, one of the best concert movies ever made. Filmed mostly in black and white, the movie is about the 1987 rock tour of America by U2, where they try to find their rock & roll roots. They visit Graceland (the home of Elvis) and a church in Harlem, where the group sings as part of the congregation. The songs in the movie are great and run full. The tour is a "reverse roots" tour on which four Irish singers come to visit the places their music came from. U2, the movie, is very political. The band speaks out about murder in Ireland. The band consists of four members: Bono, The Edge, Larry Mullen Jr., and Adam Clayton. A must for fans of the best Irish rock group in history.

Happy New Year



A Dancing Fool (Dr. DeFina in action).

Sign up now for the Annual MDA Dance-a-thon.

Senior Halloween Party Pix



Upper left: Dr. Ferris puts the move on "Denise" Sweeney. Bottom left: Alegra Cerrato and Vanessa LaFant. Center left: "D.J. Mickey" (Anthony Romano). Center right: "Ahoy Mates!" (Michelle Maldonado)

The Thrill Of Victory

by Robert Lombardi

It was two years ago this summer, but it is as clear to me as yesterday. We had finally accomplished what we had been trying so hard to do for three years. The softball season had just ended, and we found ourselves in first place. We had really improved from the year before. The addition of John and Anthony to the team really paid off. They filled our weak spots and completed what was to become the number one team in Brooklyn.

It was the last day of our regular season and we already knew where we would be in two short weeks. Our last game had no significance, but it was a chance for us to get in some needed practice. We showed that day that we were ready for the tournament by winning our final game six to one on a great performance by our pitcher, Anthony.

After two short weeks, the day finally came. It was July 20th, 1986, seven o'clock in the morning, and I heard the van in front of my house. All of the guys were there, and they were ready for our ride to Marine Park and, we hoped, our ride home as winners.

When we arrived at the field, we had to wait for one game to be played, which made us more nervous, but when we finally started playing at about one o'clock, the tension was gone.

In the third inning, we blew the game open, scoring 3-0. I was due up fourth in the inning. The first three men all got singles to load the bases. My friend, Mike, who was up after me, told me not to be nervous and just try to make contact. I did just what he told me to do; I made contact for a triple over the left-fielder's head. It was the most exciting hit of my life. I still did not know what was happening, when Mike put one over the center field fence to put us on top, 8-0. From there on it was easy. We stayed on top and won the first game by a final score of 14-0. That was easy; now on to the finals.

In the finals we had to play the winners of the first game, who were nice and rested after watching us play. We started, and it was like a war had broken out. We were back and forth for six innings. The score was 5-5. Now, on to the seventh (in softball you only play seven innings). Mike came through again with a double to score me and John and make the score 7-5. We were delirious and we tried not to get too happy because "it's not over 'til it's over." In their half of the seventh they had no outs and a man on. We all talked to Anthony and convinced him that he could do it. He did it. With two outs and a man on, still he made the hitter hit a lazy flyball towards third base. It was me! What I had always dreamed of: catching the last out in a very important game. I squeezed that ball as hard as I could, and was immediately mobbed by 10 happy guys. We did it! We won! We finally were the champions!

Spotlight: Stuart And Joey

by Michael Wysokowski

Every Monday when we enter Bishop Ford, we hear over the loudspeaker or during lunch period announcements that the track team has won the Brooklyn or Brooklyn-Queens Champs. These are not easy tasks. It takes time and plenty of effort for the team to accomplish these great feats. And they are great. Because every time a championship meet is won by Ford, it is one more way of saying that we are number one.

And who should we thank for this? We should thank Mr. Louis Vazquez, who pushes every runner to his personal best, Mrs. Vazquez, who keeps all the paperwork in order, and Neil Lanzetta, who assists Coach Vazquez by encouraging each runner and offering his advice. But most of all we should thank Stuart McLeod and Joey Pira (varsity cross-country captains) and also David Daughtry, Clarence Wesby, Chris Munoz, Gregory Paul, Anthony Budd, and all of the runners who give up their days and weekends to train hard and to win.

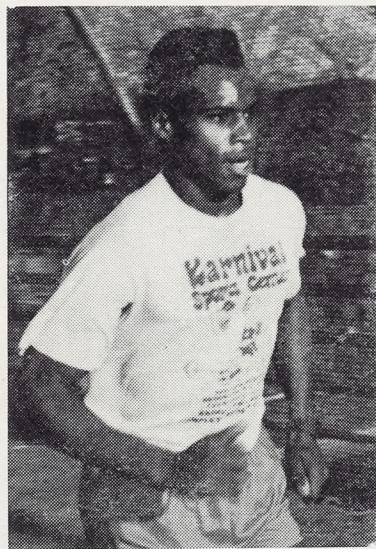
With that, I decided to interview Stuart McLeod and Joey Pira, cross-country captains and Bishop Ford's top guns, who lead this monumental team.

Highpoint: What goes through your mind during a race? And what are your race plans?

Stuart: I always go for the win. I keep in mind all of the team's past victories. My race plan is to get out and work at a good pace. I latch on to another runner and then break away towards the finish.

Joey: During a race I keep telling myself not to let any Xavierian or Loughlin runners get by me. My race plan is to work with Stuart; then, if I lose him, I'll work with whomever is in front of me and then break away from him.

Highpoint: What has been your greatest accomplishment on track?



Stuart McLeod and Joe Pira

Stuart: To break thirteen minutes. Now I know without a doubt that I can do it, because I've done it in the last two races.

Joey: To see Stuart come in first and to come in second for Brooklyn Champs.

Highpoint: Who has been your biggest influence during your four years on track?

Stuart: Coach Vazquez. He always looks out for me. Not only for now, but even what's good for me four years from now. And also Peter Aquilone (a graduate from last year who now attends and runs for Fordham University), who helped me with the mental aspects of running, as well as the physical part of it.

Joey: Mr. Vazquez, because he knows my goals and helps me to meet them everytime I run. Also, training with Stuart, who pushes me physically as well as mentally.

Highpoint: What goals do you have planned this year? And what does the team have planned?

Stuart: I want to be a City Champ, either individually or in a relay.

Joey: To be a part of the D.M.R. (Distance Medley Relay) and to win!!!

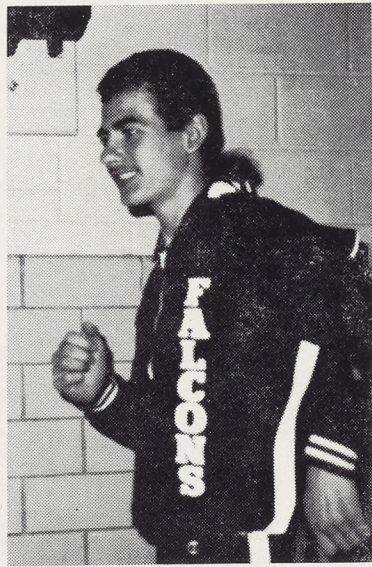
Stuart: As for the team, we want to qualify for Penn relays for the 4 x 400 and 4 x 800 meter relays and the D.M.R.. And also to qualify for the Millrose games, which we finished second in last year. This year I think we could win.

Highpoint: Any last comments?

Stuart: I want to help the team at City Championships, because last year I didn't run to my potential and failed to score points for the team.

Joey: I'm glad to be the No. 2 man on this team, because I wasn't expected to run this well.

That ends this interview with these two athletes who follow the injunction: "Don't Give In."



Girls' Tennis Team Aces Past Season

by Margo Barrett

The girls' varsity tennis team had one of the most successful seasons in the team's history this past fall. They rallied to win a total of fifty-seven games against some top notch opponents, including St. John's Prep, Mary Louis Academy, and Stella Maris High School.

Major contributions were made by all eight team members (Millie Taveras, Eileen Daly, Olivia Almengor, Blanca Koffer, Lynn Ketelsen, E. J. McGee, Shannon Williams, Tonya Glenn). Some of the team's highlights include: E. J. McGee's four defeats out of a total of eight matches. Also, the doubles team of seniors Eileen Daly and Lynn Ketelsen had four defeats among their eight matches.

Some of the most exciting plays were made by junior transfer student Blanca Koffer from West Germany. Due to the injury of 1987's M.V.P.

Millie Taveras, Blanca played first singles in her absence. Blanca was pressed all season by her top opponents, but she did not have much luck in defeating them. Her efforts were, however, commendable and worthy of the team's praise. She will be a key player in the 1989 season, along with returning members Olivia Almengo, Tonya Glenn, and E.J. McGee.

The team's success would not have been possible without the aid of Coach Joan Casazone. She has been the tennis coach for the past four years. She made the following comments on the team's 1988 season: "It was one of the most successful seasons we've ever had." She also strongly urges anyone interested in joining the tennis team to contact her at the math department. A word of thanks to her for her continued patience, understanding, and guidance of the team.

Girls' Track Team Captures Championship



From left to right: Connie Valdez, LaJuana Wix and Nina McClellan

by Myriam Exume

The girls' track team here at Ford had a very successful cross-country season. On Oct. 25 the varsity girls, led by Co-Captains Connie Valdez and Nanette Soto, helped pace the team to a second place finish at Brooklyn Champs. The team missed beating Bishop Loughlin by only four points. Nina McClellan, Nikki Anglis, and La Juana Wix rounded out the top five Falcon girls.

The next day, the freshman girls did even better by winning Freshman Brooklyn Champs. They avenged their loss to St. Saviours, who won it last year. The team was led by Vicky Nieves, Jocelyn Rijo, Maria Egan, Dana Onisowicz and Natacha Meertins. The

freshman girls were also Brooklyn-Queens Champs, while the varsity team finished in second behind St. Francis Prep.

As a member of the team, I know that we wouldn't have done so well if it wasn't for Mrs. Ann Vasquez, our coach. She pushed each and every one of us to do our best this season. We varsity girls had hoped to end Bishop Loughlin's 11-year reign as varsity girls' Brooklyn Champs. We worked as hard as we could, but came up a few points short. Mrs. Vasquez knows that we did our best and that's all she really cares about.

The team will continue to work hard during indoor season and hopes to be even better!

CORRECTION: As a result of a printer's error in our last issue, Ula Zucker's name was omitted from the First Honors list.

A Merry Christmas To All!